* Specified importers have been allowed to take delivery from port without routing through CFS.

* CONCOR has been permitted by Customs to move containers with prior SMPT permission.

* Import of CFS of JNPT operated by Central Warehousing Corporation has been utilized for evacuating 4000 TEUs from the container yard of NSICT en-block.

* Mobilization of additional equipments for handling the cargo, acquisition of state-of-art equipment, providing crossbeams for gravel bed in the container stack yards, 5 metres quay extension behind the Rail Mounted Quay Cranes at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal (JNPCT).

* An Agreement was signed on 10th August, 2004 between JNPT and MAERSK—CONCOR Consortium for the development of Bulk Terminal to 3rd Container Terminal at JN Port which will add a capacity of 1,3 Million TEUs by mid 2006.

* A Task Force headed by the Chairman, JNPT has also been constituted to suggest short and medium term measures for decongestion of JNPT.

Highways in Rajasthan

† 817. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether letters from the State Government of Rajasthan have been despatched to his Ministry on March 19, 2004 and April 16, 2004 regarding declaring the parts of sixteen highways of the State as full-fledged highways;

(b) if so, the details of the concrete steps being taken in this regard by Government and whether any time-limit has been prescribed in this respect;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In February, 2004, the Ministry has declared 7457 kms. of State Roads as National Highways including 988 kms. in Rajasthan. It is premature to indicate any time frame for further declaration of National Highways.

Road proposals from Rajasthan

†818. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan have sent proposals to the Central Government for strengthening and widening of National Highways in the State;

(b) whether Government have formulated any plan in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of outline and time-limit thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Nine proposals of widening and seven proposals of strengthening the National Highways in Rajasthan have been received in the Ministry amounting to Rs. 77.58 crores and Rs. 45.85 crores, respectively, during the current financial year.

(b) Annual Plan for the year 2004-05 has been formulated for sanction of estimates for an amount of Rs. 159.50 crores for all improvement works on various National Highways in Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) The proposals received from the Government of Rajasthan in respect of Annual Plan works are targeted for sanction during the current financial year depending upon the adequacy of technical parameters, availability of funds and *inter-se* priority of works.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.